



Protecting the People who Feed America

Predictors of Personal Protective Equipment Compliance among Farm Youth



Natalie Roy, MPH, Executive Director, AgriSafe Network



ABSTRACT

It is well documented that pesticide handlers do not consistently use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Young farmers commonly handle pesticides on their farm even if they are not certified as "pesticide handlers".

Therefore, they are considered an important population to target at an early age with accurate information on preventing pesticide poisoning.

The AgriSafe Network collected quantitative data to assess PPE compliance among 379 FFA farm youth during the 2007 FFA convention. The survey tested PPE knowledge, PPE usage, and predominate high exposure farm tasks.

AgriSafe is a national non-profit that advances the delivery of occupational health care to farm families. Strategies to increase use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) among farm youth is an important component of AgriSafe's efforts to protect those working in agriculture.

METHODS

The AgriSafe Network collected quantitative data to assess PPE compliance among 379 FFA farm youth during the 2007 FFA convention. The survey tested PPE knowledge, PPE usage, and predominate high exposure farm tasks.

The survey also assessed PPE usage in relation to stages of behavior change as described in the Transtheoretical Model.

Transtheoretical Model

Precontemplation

Farm youth in this stage are unaware of the need to use PPE. There is no intention in the foreseeable future to use PPE.

Contemplation

Farm youth in this stage are aware of the risks associated with not using PPE. They are seriously thinking about use but have not made a commitment to take action.

Preparation

Farm youth are intending to take action in the next month to use PPE.

Action

Farm youth use PPE (either purchased by self or provided).

Maintenance

Farm youth in this category wear PPE on a consistent basis.

CONTACT

Natalie Roy, MPH
Executive Director
AgriSafe Network

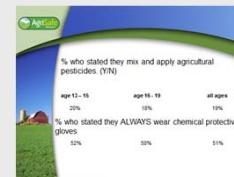
Phone: (985) 845-1116
Email: nroy@agsafe.org
www.AgriSafe.org

INTRODUCTION



RESULTS

Chemical Protection



Hearing Protection



Respiratory Protection



Skin Protection



Common Farming Activities Reported among 379 Farm Youth

Cleaning grain bins
Unloading grain
Mixing and grinding feed
Unloading & feeding hay
Cleaning animal pens in barn
Feeding confinement animals
Cleaning confinement building
Working with poultry
Working with large animals
Hand harvesting fruits and vegetables
Using an ATV for farm work
Driving the lawnmower

Recommendations

Strategies to Increase PPE Use among Farm Youth

- Assess stage of behavior change
- Launch social marketing campaign aimed at the interests of youth (radio, print, internet) and various stages of behavior change
- Apply methods of proven public health prevention
- Identify high risk farm tasks
- Make appropriate recommendation
- Have PPE available by a reliable resource/organization

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